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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

11

REGULAR MEETING

12

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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1 MR. BRANDON: We are past the starting
2 time. Before we get started, I want to ask sort of
3 our default chaplain, Former Commissioner John
4 Deffenbaugh, if he will lead us in the invocation
5 and Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Thereupon, the invocation and
7 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

8 MR. BRANDON: This is the regularly
9 scheduled meeting which takes place at the same time
10 on the first Thursday of every month. Proper notice
11 of this meeting was given in the legal organ of Dade
12 County and has been posted in the hallway of the
13 Administration Building. I'll call the roll and
14 have it recorded by the clerk. Mr. Lowery?

15 MR. LOWERY: Here.

16 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

17 MS. MOORE: Here.

18 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

19 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

20 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

21 MR. YOUNG: Here.

22 MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present.
23 We have a forum and, therefore, a legal meeting.

24 The reading of the minutes of the
25 January 2008 regular meeting will not be required

1 since all Commissioners have been furnished copies
2 in advance. The minutes are public record and
3 available for review in the county manager's office.
4 The minutes are included in the consent agenda. At
5 this time, I would ask the clerk to read the other
6 items in addition to the minutes that are in the
7 consent agenda which will be voted on as a block.

8 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Approval of
9 previous minutes as presented by the chairman,
10 approval of appointments of new county employees,
11 approval of invoices discussed, republication of the
12 Dade County Code of Ordinances, contract with
13 American Legal, new tractor to be purchased for the
14 recreation department by Yancy Brothers. It's a
15 Challenger tractor, Back Valley Road landfill ground
16 water sampling and analysis reporting by S&ME, Inc.,
17 resolution supporting the use of prescribed fire,
18 Resolution 0508, and the approval of the Board of
19 Equalization, the resolution to be drafted by the
20 county attorney reducing the number of alternates to
21 three.

22 MR. BRANDON: I believe that is the
23 consent agenda. Do I have a motion that we pass the
24 consent agenda as read?

25 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we pass

1 the consent agenda as read.

2 MR. BRANDON: Do I have a second?

3 MR. YOUNG: I second.

4 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
5 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

6 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

7 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

8 MS. MOORE: Yes.

9 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

10 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

11 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

12 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

13 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes
14 as well. Thank you.

15 Moving on to the executive update. If
16 you've been paying attention to the media lately,
17 Dade County has not been mentioned very much, but
18 we've been very predominantly discussed in Atlanta
19 and in Chattanooga and the reason being that we are
20 about to become key players in a big border conflict
21 and I'll tell you why. Three years ago, we'd been
22 in office about two weeks when I got a call from an
23 engineering firm called Brown & Caldwell out of
24 Atlanta and they deal almost exclusively with large
25 water projects and this guy said, I want to talk to

1 you because we want to know if you knew that the
2 state line between Tennessee and Georgia isn't in
3 the right place and I said, well, yeah, we kind of
4 knew that. It's sort of an urban legend around
5 here, I said, but so what. He said, well, the so
6 what is if it were put back where it was supposed to
7 be, Dade County would have several hundred acres out
8 in the middle of Nickajack Lake and he said, we'd
9 like to talk to you about it, would you like to meet
10 with us. And so I said, yeah, we would. So Doug
11 Anderton and I three years ago tomorrow met with
12 Brown & Caldwell and we're just listening and they
13 made a very compelling argument for the fact that if
14 you go back and look at historically why this was
15 so, then we do have a claim on the Tennessee River,
16 if not about a mile worth of real estate between us
17 and Chattanooga north of what's currently recognized
18 as the state line.

19 To give you a little background on
20 this, when this country was founded, Georgia was the
21 Georgia -- Georgia originally took everything from
22 what we now see as Georgia all the way over to the
23 Mississippi River which took in most of the states
24 of Alabama and Mississippi. In 1802 Georgia ceded
25 what was called the Mississippi Territory to the

1 federal government. In that agreement where we
2 ceded that territory, it described what the border
3 between Georgia and the new -- and the soon-to-be
4 state of Tennessee was going to be, which was
5 supposed to be 35 degrees north latitude or the
6 35th parallel. So that was in a federal
7 government document back then.

8 Well, in -- so that was in 1802. Well,
9 in 1818 they did a survey and I'd like to point out
10 that the fellow who came and did the survey got it
11 wrong and he was a professor from the University of
12 Georgia, by the way. But they -- he had some
13 antiquated -- the whole time he's surveying, he had
14 a mariner's sextant, which is good enough if you're
15 out in the middle of the ocean, getting within a
16 mile or two of where you're supposed to be is okay,
17 but when it comes to surveying, David will probably
18 tell you that's not quite good enough when you're
19 trying to shoot the line between two states.

20 MR. LOWERY: Part of that story is the
21 Republican governor wouldn't --

22 MR. BRANDON: I knew it was going to
23 turn ugly. He's right. They said, oh, we don't
24 want to waste a lot of money on a lot of fancy
25 equipment, so he didn't have a lot of good

1 equipment.

2 But to make a long story shorter
3 hopefully, over the years, Georgia has never --
4 never agreed that the state line is where it is
5 right now. About six times over the last 200 years
6 Georgia has appealed to Tennessee to establish a
7 commission to reset the state line at the 35th
8 degree of north latitude.

9 Now, for those of you who might have a
10 GPS in your car, if you want to see where that is,
11 if you're driving north on Highway 11, if you're
12 going on Highway 11 after you go through that
13 underpass up there before you get to the quarry on
14 the left, as you top that hill before you start down
15 the other side, the state line would be right there
16 about splitting that big parking lot up there by
17 Covenant Transport. If you're on I-24, it's going
18 to be about a quarter mile north of the Welcome
19 Station.

20 If you really want to get a good view
21 of what it would look like if it were where it's
22 supposed to be, any of you who have used google
23 earth on the internet where you go in there and see
24 google earth, go on google earth, put in 30757, the
25 zip code for Wildwood on there and it will focus in

1 on Wildwood. Then go north a little bit, zoom into
2 about a 10,000-foot view and it shows the 35th
3 parallel because that's where they say -- what they
4 say is not legal, of course, but that's where they
5 have the border listed. So you can see very clearly
6 what's on there that would be in Georgia or what
7 should be in Georgia. But that's what the dispute
8 is going to be about.

9 And over the past years, the dispute
10 has been just about, well, that's our property up
11 there, we actually own another mile up there and
12 Tennessee would dismiss it and they would never talk
13 to us and nobody ever took it to court. Well,
14 when -- now then that the issue of water rights has
15 become a lot more important, the people in Atlanta
16 have started paying a lot more attention. But Doug
17 and I have gone to a bunch of meetings and all we
18 can do is go and talk and rah rah for Dade County on
19 this because the amount of resources it would take
20 to fight this is in the millions of dollars and
21 going to -- and probably going to end up in the
22 Supreme Court, if not Congress. So we didn't have
23 the resources. All we can do is go and make Dade
24 County's case for actually getting us back the --
25 what are called the riparian rights to the water in

1 the Tennessee River. Because when you look at the
2 maps of Georgia and when they sectioned off Alabama,
3 they -- have you ever wondered why the line between
4 Georgia and Alabama is at an angle? It was
5 specifically drawn that way so that Georgia would
6 share the river, the Chattahoochee River with
7 Alabama and it was drawn so that it would go back up
8 and go across the Tennessee River and so that
9 Georgia would have part of the Tennessee River for
10 trade purposes for barge traffic and things like
11 that back 200 years ago. It was done that way for a
12 reason.

13 So but now then that Atlanta started
14 having a water shortage, they're running out of
15 options. Earlier this week the district courts
16 decided that Georgia could not tell the Corps of
17 Engineers that they're going to take as much water
18 as they wanted out of Lake Lanier, which is almost
19 dry anyway, which is a big setback. So earlier this
20 week, Senator David Shafer from down south of
21 Atlanta, put a resolution into the House, into the
22 Senate and another gentleman did the same in the
23 House urging the State of Georgia to come up with a
24 boundary commission to reestablish the correct
25 boundary between Georgia and Tennessee as it's

1 supposed to be and as it's laid out in law in all
2 the legal documents from 200 years ago.

3 Now, you'd have to say, okay, well,
4 what's the net effect going to be on Dade County? I
5 really don't know. I mean, it's going to take a lot
6 of political courage, a whole lot of money. In the
7 end, do I think that we'll end up with another mile
8 worth of taxable real estate on the north end of
9 Lookout Mountain? I doubt it, or we won't end up
10 with all the warehouses over on Wauhatchie Pike, but
11 we might be able to get the water rights which would
12 be an enormous -- it would probably be the largest
13 public works project in the history of Georgia to
14 build this thing because what they're talking
15 about is building a -- if they were to do this, be
16 able to take 250 million gallons of water a day from
17 the Tennessee River at Nickajack, which according to
18 TVA's own estimates, is less than one percent of the
19 flow of the river. Take that out and treat it in
20 Dade County and then ship it to somewhere else. So
21 it would be an enormous public works project.

22 It would put us on the map and they
23 might even put us back on the quarter if it's big
24 enough. But it will be a great boom for Dade
25 County. I'm surprised nobody else laughed about

1 that quarter thing. Somebody pointed out, well,
2 they'll put us back on the quarter if we get that.

3 But that's where we stand. I don't
4 know where this is going to go. I'm sure Tennessee
5 is going to fight it, but if you look, realistically
6 taking that water out doesn't harm Tennessee because
7 the river runs less than ten miles before it enters
8 Alabama and runs through Alabama for about 150 miles
9 and back into Tennessee. There are other
10 withdrawals from the river that are a whole lot
11 bigger than what we're talking about here. Just the
12 Tennessee Tom Bigby Channel over there from
13 Tennessee to Mississippi is currently
14 200 million gallons a day and they're talking about
15 adding 600 million to it. So this is a small amount
16 of water compared to the 24 billion gallons of water
17 per day that flow past that dam over there at
18 Nickajack.

19 So I don't know where it's going to go.
20 We've kept our hand in it and said howdy. We've met
21 with everybody that would talk to us. We've made
22 our state senator and representative aware of it.
23 We've met with the governor's staff. Back in
24 October I met with -- we met with Lieutenant
25 Governor Casey Cagle. We've talked to anybody that

1 we thought cared about it that could help us on it.
2 We haven't spent a penny on it so far because I've
3 told them we didn't have any money to spend. But
4 it's important for us to be a member of these other
5 water resource groups here in north Georgia and
6 we've been to a lot of those meetings. That's going
7 to be on the horizon. This may -- I don't know if
8 this will even happen in my lifetime. It's
9 certainly not going to happen between now and the
10 end of the year, but I think long term it will be a
11 good project for the county if we can get it.

12 So that's kind of the executive update
13 and on the biggest thing that's going to come down
14 the pike in the foreseeable future on the water
15 scene for public works for Dade County.

16 MR. LOWERY: Should we create some kind
17 of resolution to send to Atlanta to let them know we
18 support their efforts?

19 MR. BRANDON: It probably wouldn't
20 hurt. I mean, we've been in there. Senator Mullis
21 and State Representative Scott have been in there.
22 We could draft a resolution and send to them of our
23 support. But I sent Senator Shafer an e-mail this
24 morning and told him if there's anything he needed
25 up here from us, to let me know. But it's not going

1 to depend so much on Georgia as it is on Tennessee
2 because at some point you're going to have to go to
3 court. Robin is all jammed up with everything else
4 he's doing, he's probably not going to want to take
5 time to go to Washington to argue a case in front of
6 the Supreme Court. I imagine there will be some
7 high-priced attorneys from Atlanta paid for by the
8 State and not by Dade County because this is a
9 state-wide project and not a Dade County, but we can
10 certainly do that. We'll draw up a resolution to
11 send down, if that's in agreement with everybody.
12 Do I have a motion that we do such a thing?

13 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, we need to
14 amend the agenda if we're going to consider that.

15 MR. BRANDON: Good point. Point of
16 order. Robert's Rules of Order. Do I have a motion
17 that we amend the agenda to take up this matter?

18 MR. LOWERY: So moved.

19 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
20 have a second?

21 MR. YOUNG: I'll second.

22 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
23 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

24 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

25 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

1 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

2 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

3 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

5 MS. MOORE: Yes.

6 MR. BRANDON: So the agenda is amended.

7 So now do I have a resolution that we -- do I have a

8 motion that we send a resolution to Atlanta in

9 support of David Shafer's effort to create this

10 border commission?

11 MR. LOWERY: I make that motion.

12 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion by

13 Commissioner Lowery. Do I have a second?

14 MR. YOUNG: I'll second.

15 MR. BRANDON: Second by Commissioner

16 Young. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

18 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

19 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

20 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

21 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

22 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

23 MS. MOORE: Yes.

24 MR. BRANDON: Thank you for catching

25 that, Robin.

1 All right. Moving on to appearances,
2 we have, as always, Mayor Anthony Emanuel of the
3 City of Trenton. I'll ask him to come up.

4 MR. EMANUEL: As always, it is my
5 privilege to present to you on behalf of my fellow
6 City Commissioners the financial and activity report
7 for the City of Trenton during the month of January
8 of 2008. We took in revenue of \$246,000. We
9 expensed 154,000, leaving a net income of 91,000.
10 We've earmarked 12,000 for a contingency fund.

11 Life in the City of Trenton improves
12 largely because of the volunteers that support and
13 make things happen through the Downtown Development
14 Authority. The Promotion Committee, which is
15 chaired by Rex Harrison, has adopted a very
16 ambitious program for 2008 and it begins fairly
17 soon. We'll be hosting the Easter egg hunt at
18 Jenkins Park for all the children and that's quite a
19 delight if you've never experienced that. And then
20 Family Fest 2008 is scheduled for April 18th
21 through April 20th. That's a Friday evening
22 through Sunday.

23 Trenton is also planning three summer
24 concerts in July, August and September. And then in
25 October Trenton will be partnering in hosting the

1 scarecrow contest. And the grand finale, of course,
2 will be our annual Christmas in the Park.

3 The Design Committee, which is chaired
4 by Bob Dombrowski, also has a very ambitious agenda.
5 They're going to staff and support the Historical
6 Preservation Commission. They're going to develop a
7 new banner for downtown Trenton. They're going to
8 continue the facade grant program and we hope to
9 begin work on streetscape. We've been awaiting word
10 from the Georgia Department of Transportation's Mike
11 Evans about the moneys being available for
12 streetscape, but Mr. Evans, if you read the paper,
13 has had his attention on keeping his job, not on
14 granting awards. We also plan for additional
15 Christmas lights for downtown Trenton and we will
16 continue the art banner program.

17 Town Creek continues to progress.
18 Phase one is continuing. We've defined the trail
19 boundaries. They've been surveyed. We've conducted
20 title searches so we know who to talk to about
21 gaining right-of-way, but that's something that you
22 can look forward to and your children can look
23 forward to. It's going to be a multi-purpose trail
24 with exercise points every quarter of a mile and
25 will be a tremendous quality of life asset for the

1 City.

2 The Economic Restructuring Committee,
3 which is headed by Alan Ward, is meeting with the
4 USDA Housing Division. We're going to aggressively
5 pursue senior citizen housing in the city, which at
6 the moment is almost nonexistent. They're going to
7 recruit targeted businesses to add appropriate
8 diversity to downtown Trenton. They're already
9 engaged in that activity as well.

10 The Organization Committee under Janet
11 York is actively recruiting more volunteers for DDA
12 activities. All of DDA activities say for one
13 person take place because of volunteers. They're
14 also looking at developing nontax revenue sources
15 and maintaining the DDA web site as well.

16 The DDA meets on the third Monday of
17 each month. You're welcome to join us whether you
18 reside in Trenton or not.

19 The only item that I've not mentioned
20 that you may have read about recently, we are
21 challenging the skateboard/skate community within
22 the city of Trenton to join with us in a
23 collaborative effort to see if we can justify,
24 finance and maintain a skate park at Jenkins Park.
25 The reason is quite simple, if we don't have a skate

1 park, then the city becomes a skate park and you
2 only have to look as you drive through virtually any
3 part of the city to see young men and women carrying
4 their skateboards looking for a slope or building or
5 a set of steps to skate on. It's dangerous. It's
6 creating property damage and we either have to
7 provide an alternative site for that activity or
8 outlaw it completely and I hope we don't have to
9 reach that point.

10 Again, it's my privilege to present
11 this report to you on behalf of my fellow City
12 Commissioners. Thank you.

13 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mayor.
14 Something the Mayor said that triggered a notion
15 that I meant to go over in the executive update. So
16 let me take a moment, if I may, and cover that. He
17 made a reference to Mike Evans from the DOT, the
18 board chairman for the DOT board. There's a lot of
19 politics going on. Several months ago Commissioner
20 Linenkohl resigned from the DOT as the DOT
21 commissioner. There was a vote to -- there was a
22 selection process where they were selecting a new
23 DOT commissioner. The speaker had a candidate that
24 he wanted picked and his candidate didn't get picked
25 and the -- Mr. Evans was one of those who voted for

1 the current DOT commissioner who is doing -- already
2 shaking things up. It's a lady from Newnan. She's
3 doing a good job it appears, but barring him getting
4 his person to that position, he decided that he
5 would punish some of the people that voted against
6 his selection, Speaker of the House, Glenn
7 Richardson.

8 So Mr. Evans and another board member
9 were up for reelection and the Speaker went out and
10 tried to get one of his supporters to be elected in
11 Mr. Evans' place. And when the election came up,
12 there were several representatives, members of the
13 House of Representatives, even though it's a secret
14 ballot, they were lobbying very heavily to vote for
15 the Commission -- the Speaker's candidate instead of
16 the one that everybody wanted, which was to leave
17 Mr. Evans on there.

18 Our State Representative, Martin Scott,
19 to his credit, did not give in, even though he's in
20 the same party as the Speaker. He voted to retain
21 Mr. Evans on that board. And since then in Atlanta
22 when you cross the Speaker, retribution rides a
23 shift horse. So within hours of that vote to keep
24 Mr. Evans on there, Representative Graves who had
25 been the hawk who could go around to various

1 committees, lost his position and was moved to an
2 office about as far away for the capitol as you can
3 get. And a couple days later, Representative Scott
4 who had taken a courageous stand at some
5 professional risk to him was -- also lost his
6 committee positions as well and I joked with Martin
7 that they couldn't move him much further away unless
8 they could find a broom closet in the basement
9 somewhere from where his office is now if you've
10 ever been down there.

11 But we need to applaud him for doing
12 the right thing and standing on his convictions even
13 though he's sponsoring a very important piece of
14 legislation. It's a human rights -- a right to life
15 amendment for the Georgia Constitution and now then
16 they're trying to play some politics with that as
17 well. There have been threats that it will never
18 get out of committee because the Speaker is going to
19 go even further and punish him by not hearing his
20 bill this legislative session.

21 We owe Martin a great deal of
22 appreciation and thanks for sticking by his guns and
23 doing the right thing even when it's personally very
24 costly to him. So the next time you see him, you
25 might want to tell him how much you appreciate that.

1 MR. FOWLER: Mr. Brandon, didn't I see
2 you and Martin Scott --

3 MR. BRANDON: I'm sorry. You're out of
4 order, Roy. This is not for discussion here.

5 MR. FOWLER: -- and Glenn Richards at a
6 meeting, at a rally a few years back?

7 MR. BRANDON: You're out of order.
8 This is not a time for discussion.

9 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, I think we
10 should amend the agenda again. I would like to
11 amend the agenda, so we might want to consider a
12 letter of appreciation to Mr. Scott because Mike
13 Evans is the only one from the DOT that has ever
14 come to this county since I've been a Commissioner
15 that I know of and explained to us what goes on.

16 MR. BRANDON: We have another motion to
17 amend the agenda to allow discussion and another
18 resolution. Do I have a second?

19 MR. YOUNG: I'll second.

20 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
21 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

22 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

23 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

24 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

25 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

1 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

2 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

3 MS. MOORE: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.
5 Now, on with your resolution, Mr. Lowery.

6 MR. LOWERY: Resolution or letter of
7 appreciation. I don't think it would have to be a
8 resolution, would it, Robin?

9 MR. ROGERS: It can be either.

10 MR. LOWERY: Whichever one you feel --

11 MR. BRANDON: A resolution in support
12 of Representative Scott would probably be
13 appropriate and we could draft that because it's --
14 Representative Scott has worked months, if not
15 years, on this human rights initiative, the right to
16 life initiative and now then he's being threatened
17 with having not -- being called out of committee
18 because he made the Speaker mad and that's very
19 punitive and inappropriate, but I would support that
20 as well.

21 So we have a motion to send a
22 resolution in support of Representative Scott. Do I
23 have a second?

24 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second.

25 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a

1 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

2 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

3 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

4 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

5 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

6 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

7 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

8 MS. MOORE: Yes.

9 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.

10 Thank you.

11 Okay. Moving on into fiscal matters,
12 I'll call on the county clerk to read the financial
13 report, please.

14 MR. LOWERY: What about appearances?

15 MR. BRANDON: Oh, I'm sorry. I skipped
16 right over that. Mrs. Wilson.

17 MRS. WILSON: Well, I am Linda Wilson
18 and I'm here as a chair of the Dade County Library
19 Board, but also as an English teacher at Dade County
20 High School. I just want to say first that I'm not
21 here to ask for money, so everybody can relax.

22 I want to -- I'm here to ask you to
23 read a book and I hope everybody got one of our
24 flyers. If you didn't, our library manager, Debra
25 Bradford, is here and she has some more telling

1 about some of the events that I'm going to be
2 talking to you about.

3 Last summer Gala Brewer from the
4 Cherokee Regional Library contacted me about
5 partnering for a grant proposal for the Big Read
6 Grant and the Big Read Grant is an initiative of the
7 National Endowment for the Arts, which is a pretty
8 big deal, and I helped her just a little bit. She
9 wrote the grant and we were -- we received an \$8,000
10 grant, Big Read Grant and we were one of only -- one
11 out of 127 grants that were given all over the
12 country.

13 The way this grant works, they have a
14 list of books that we choose from and we choose a
15 book and we promote the reading of this book in
16 hopes to promote reading any book really. This is
17 just kind of a start. The National Endowment for
18 the Arts has done some research and they found
19 that -- and nobody will be surprised, that literary
20 reading is dropping. You know, the percent of
21 people that do a lot of reading is getting smaller.
22 You know, we've got TV and movies and video games
23 and all kinds of things to compete with.

24 But they also -- some of the research
25 shows that people who read are more likely to do

1 volunteer work, and I know there are many of you
2 here that do that. They're more likely to attend --
3 to do charity work, attend public functions and even
4 more likely to run for public office. So we think
5 there's a lot of good reasons why we want not just
6 our students, but our public to be readers. So this
7 is -- this is our first grant like this and we're
8 trying to get the word out to everybody in the
9 community.

10 You're going to begin to see banners up
11 around town about The Big Read and I just hope that
12 you'll remember what this is and keep this flyer
13 which has a schedule of our events.

14 Now, this grant is for Walker and Dade
15 County. So there will be events in both counties,
16 but I've got to say, we're really doing a whole lot
17 more than Walker County. We have to have ten events
18 between January and June between the two counties
19 and on the flyer you have, you can see the events
20 that we're having here in Dade County.

21 I especially want to point out our kick
22 off event which is March 15th. Oh, first let me
23 tell you a little bit about our book. Ms. Brewer
24 let me choose the book. I did have to choose it
25 from a list and I chose To Kill a Mockingbird for

1 several reasons. I thought it was a very good fit
2 for our community. It's a book that takes place in
3 a small southern town. It takes place during the
4 Depression and we're going to use that in our
5 kick-off event and it's a wonderful book. I also
6 chose it because it's a book that we teach in the
7 high school and all she had to do was tell me we
8 would get free books and I was on board for this
9 grant and we are. We're getting 100 copies of the
10 book to use at the high school for as long as they
11 will last.

12 The library is getting a lot of
13 materials. They're getting multi copies of the
14 books. They're getting audio books for people who
15 use those. If you want, we have free readers guides
16 that are available at the library and we have many
17 of those and they don't cost anything. They have a
18 lot of background about the book and the author.

19 Another reason I chose this book is
20 because of all of the thousands of books that I've
21 read, this is still my favorite book in the whole
22 world and if you haven't read it, you're in for a
23 treat. You will love this book if you read it and
24 if you haven't read it in several years, then I
25 invite you to reread it because it's worth it.

1 Our kick-off event is what we call Big
2 Read Radio. We're going to have a live radio show
3 at the high school in the auditorium. We've got --
4 we'll have an MC. There will be comedy. We'll have
5 several musical groups, some from the schools. We
6 have a gospel group. We have a bluegrass group and
7 some others that are going to be performing and
8 we're going to intersperse that with some scenes
9 from the novel and some of our high school drama
10 students will be performing that. So we're trying
11 to include a lot of different people from the
12 community in this. So we hope that you'll all be
13 there with us. It's free. All of our events are
14 free. The things we have to pay for are paid for by
15 the grant.

16 So that will be March 15th at the
17 high school. That's a Saturday night and it will be
18 good family entertainment. We'll also have some
19 family art classes at the library and the dates are
20 on the flyer, and an art exhibit from those. There
21 will be some groups discussing the book and we'd
22 like for you to join one of those, if you can. A
23 regular book discussion group meets at the library
24 monthly and in April, on April 1st, we will be
25 discussing To Kill a Mockingbird. They'll be --

1 also be a discussion group at the Senior Center for
2 seniors on April 27th.

3 Our -- our grand finale, as you may
4 know, not only is it a wonderful book, but they also
5 made a wonderful movie out of it and we'll be
6 screening the movie on May 5th and 6th at the
7 Wilderness Outdoor Theater and it will be free also.
8 If you don't pick up a ticket around town, you can
9 just pick them up there. The only reason we have
10 tickets is we have to keep a count of how many
11 people attend.

12 So we would like to invite you to come
13 to all these events, or as many as you can, but
14 especially our kick-off event and our movie showing.
15 We -- we're very excited about this and we are
16 already in the process of applying for this grant
17 again for next year and we hope that eventually it
18 will just -- everybody will just say, well, what
19 book are we going to be reading this year. So
20 please join us if you can. The books will be
21 available at the library. You can find them at any
22 bookstore if you're out shopping, but we just invite
23 everyone to read this book and join us for our
24 programs. Thank you.

25 MR. BRANDON: Have you set your cast

1 yet for the scenes?

2 MRS. WILSON: Yes.

3 MR. BRANDON: I want to nominate the
4 Mayor for Atticus Finch. I think he would make a
5 good Atticus Finch.

6 MRS. WILSON: Well, I think he would,
7 too. Actually, we do have those casts. Some of our
8 high school students are going to do this, but we
9 might need a backup because we've already had one
10 that we had to replace.

11 MR. BRANDON: All right. Good. Thank
12 you. Now then moving on to fiscal matter, I'll ask
13 the clerk to read the financial report.

14 MR. TOWNSEND: Drug education fund,
15 \$98,223; federal asset fund, \$10,865; special
16 sheriff's fund, \$22,754; jail fund, \$8,039; juvenile
17 services fund, 11,836; victim assistance fund,
18 \$3,810; payroll account, \$127,997. General fund,
19 \$1,256,045. In principal and interest account under
20 S.P.L.O.S.T, we have \$504,082. Principal and
21 interest CDs, 550,000. Capital bond fund account,
22 577,953; capital bond CDs, 350,432. And if you turn
23 to page two, you'll see the current list of
24 certificates of deposits on the financial
25 institutions regarding the S.P.L.O.S.T funding,

1 principal and interest and capital bonds. Page
2 three is the redeemed certificates from the past.

3 Flipping over to page five, you'll see
4 our county income statement. Under revenues, the
5 county took in -- received as of January 31, '08,
6 \$2,107,853.23. We had budgeted \$2,102,040.16. So
7 we were in excess of \$5,813, which is a total
8 percent attained of 24 percent attained for the
9 year. The reason it's already 24 percent and we
10 only have eight percent of the year gone is because
11 of our tax collections from the Tax Commissioners
12 Office of \$1,686,896. It primarily represents
13 December's revenues that came in and was posted to
14 the accounts in January.

15 Under the departmental level expenses,
16 you see we have spent as of January 31st, 2008,
17 820,687 and we've budgeted 893,000. So we are under
18 73,191 and that currently shows a percent obtained
19 at 9.75 percent. So revenues less expenses for
20 January is 1,287,165. And then following that, you
21 have a project variance report listing the different
22 revenues and expenses per the different
23 departments -- not departments, but the different
24 things that -- revenue items and expense items in
25 detail and following that, you have a S.P.L.O.S.T

1 tracking worksheet that shows where we are as of
2 January 22nd, which actually there wasn't a change
3 of that to January 31st.

4 MR. BRANDON: One of the things on our
5 expenses of January is typically a little more
6 heavily loaded expense wise. Don and I were talking
7 about this the other day. You have a lot of
8 expenses that are either quarterly or annualized
9 that are due in January, so the expenses were a
10 little high because of that, but --

11 MR. TOWNSEND: We had three payrolls in
12 the month of January because of the way the month
13 falls. We'll have another one in July. Otherwise,
14 it should be a normal two payrolls per month.

15 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Don. Looking
16 to the county attorney to ask him if we have any
17 outstanding legal matters? Do we have any update on
18 the never ending saga of the lawsuit against the
19 county?

20 MR. ROGERS: No. There was a hearing
21 originally scheduled for January 31st and that was
22 continued and it's not been rescheduled yet to my
23 knowledge.

24 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. Unfinished
25 business, I don't know of any.

1 Under new business, we have the
2 reapproval of the contract for the Dade County
3 Chamber of Commerce. Do I have a motion that we
4 approve the contract?

5 MR. YOUNG: I make a motion we approve
6 the contract for the Chamber of Commerce.

7 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
8 have a second?

9 MS. MOORE: I'll second the motion.

10 MR. BRANDON: I'll call the roll.
11 Mr. Lowery?

12 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

13 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

14 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

15 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

16 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

17 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

18 MS. MOORE: Yes.

19 MR. BRANDON: Motion passes. That
20 brings us to any other new business. Hearing none,
21 under citizen participation. Seeing none and there
22 being no executive session and there being no
23 further business before the Dade County Commission,
24 I declare the meeting adjourned.

25 END OF MEETING

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF TENNESSEE)
3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

4
5 I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
6 Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
7 State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
8 I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
9 in the above-styled cause on the 7th day of
10 February, 2008;

11 That the said proceedings were
12 reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
13 and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
14 proceedings.

15 This the 2nd day of March, 2008.

16
17
18
19
20 Erin M. Flatt
21 Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public
22 in and for the State of
23 Tennessee at Large.
24 My commission expires
25 November 7, 2010.

